

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCI-06

SCEM-02 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 DRC-01

STR-08 CEA-02 /245 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6429

INFO USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USDEL RIYADH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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CAIRO ALSO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ARAB INITIATIVE IN VISITING
EEC NINE

1. BOTH CONSERVATIVE TIMES AND LIBERAL GUARDIAN FRONT-PAGE STORIES DECEMBER 13 ON PROJECTED ATTENDANCE OF ARAB REPRESENTATIVES ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AT WEEKEND EEC SUMMIT.

2. TIMES REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM ALGERIA, TUNISIA, MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN AND THE UAE WILL SEEK CONTACT WITH EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN COPENHAGEN. TERMING IT EXTRAORDINARY THAT ARAB MINISTERS SHOULD CHOOSE TO GO TO SUMMIT MEETING AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AT A TIME WHEN EUROPE SUFFERING AS RESULT OF OIL SHORT-AGE, TIMES EUROPEAN EDITOR THINKS THIS IMPLIES ARAB WORLD IS CONCERNED THAT OIL CUTBACK IS DAMAGING ARAB INTERESTS IN EUROPE AND THAT PUBLIC OPINION WILL TURN AGAINST ARABS.

3. IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "ARABS TO LOBBY EEC," GUARDIAN'S NORTON-TAYLOR, REPORTING FROM BRUSSELS, SAYS ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE SEEKING TO PRESSURE EEC INTO SUPPORT OF THE ARAB STAND DURING FORTHCOMING PEACE CONFERENCE -- OR FACE CONTINUED SHORTAGES OF OIL. IN "BOLD DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE" AGREED ON AT ALGIERS SUMMIT, THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS INTEND TO DELIVER A NOTE TO THE NINE ON SATURDAY WHICH WILL CONSIST OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT ARAB SUMMIT NOVEMBER 28.

4. ARTICLE SAYS MINISTERS WILL REFER TO POSSIBILITIES OF NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE ARAB WORLD -- A PROPOSAL ALREADY MOOTED BY FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. THEY ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO ASK EEC NOT TO RENEW ITS EXISTING ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. THIS IS CERTAIN TO EMBARRASS MOST OF THE NINE GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY WEST GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS. SOMEWHAT CONTRARY OPINION EXPRESSED BY COMMENTATOR HELLA PICK WHO SUGGESTS THAT EVEN NETHERLANDS MAY AGREE TO PAY PRICE OF REFUSING
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TO RENEW ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. GUARDIAN ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS ON FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN EEC NINE AND ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES (AS ALREADY REPORTED BY AMEMBASSY PARIS).

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